
Boycott the Election!

Proclamation by the United Communist Party of America

[October 1920]

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WORKINGMEN and Women:

Why are you going to vote this year?

Have you ever gained anything for yourself by voting?

Don't you know that the whole business of the elections is a fake intended to make you believe that YOU have something to do with running the affairs of the country?

Think about the matter for a moment! What did you have to say about the question of who should be the Presidential or other candidates? Did you choose any of them?

You know you did not. You know that all the old party candidates who are running for office were put up by the political machines over which the capitalists of this country have absolute control.

THE CAPITALISTS CONTROL THE NEWSPAPERS. THEY CONTROL THE POLITICIANS. THEY CONTROL THE SCHOOLS, COLLEGES, AND CHURCHES. THEY CONTROL THE MEETING PLACES. THEY LET YOU VOTE BECAUSE THEY KNOW THAT THROUGH THEIR CONTROL OF THE MEANS OF INFORMATION THEY CAN MAKE YOU VOTE FOR WHAT THEY WANT AND THAT NO MATTER WHICH WAY YOU VOTE THEIR RIGHT TO ROB AND EXPLOIT YOU WILL BE PROTECTED.

What are the issues about which the Republicans and Democrats are fighting? Do they mean anything to you?

The main issue is whether the United States shall become a member of the League of Nations. The big

international banking interests want the United States in the League of Nations to protect their investments in foreign securities. The industrial capitalists, who are engaged in manufacturing and selling goods, want the United States to go it alone and grab all it can, because that means bigger profits for them. That is all the League of Nations issue amounts to, a fight between two groups of capitalist interests. Whether there is a League of Nations or not will not improve the conditions under which you live and work.

You know from your past experience that voting does not get you anything. Has the way you voted ever reduced the cost of living? Has it ever increased your wages? Has it ever improved your living or working conditions?

You know that the only way in which you have ever won anything for yourself is by fighting for it in the shop. You have had to strike to get it. You have won better wages and working conditions by combining with your fellow workers on the job, *but never by voting.*

And what do the men you vote for do when they gone on strike to improve your conditions? You know what the steel workers got. The government soaked them. You know what the "outlaw" railroad workers got. The government soaked them.

YOU KNOW THAT IN EVERY STRIKE THE GOVERNMENT USES THE COURTS, THE POLICE, THE SOLDIERS TO ENJOIN, IMPRISON, AND BEAT UP AND MURDER THE WORKERS WHO DEMAND MORE WAGES AND BETTER WORKING CONDITIONS.

Workers, the government is merely a big machine to help the capitalists keep their system of private owner-

ship of the industries and natural resources, through which you are oppressed and exploited.

The government is built to do the work of the capitalists. The laws which are made protect the capitalist interests. The government protects the capitalists no matter which party is in power. It cannot help you. It is intended only to hold you down, so that the capitalists can continue to make big profit for themselves out of your work.

The Yellow Socialists are asking you to vote for them, they claim, in order to capture this governmental machine and use it to help you. Workers, it can't be done. The Farmer-Labor Party asks the same favor with the same object in view. The machine is built to work against you. It won't work for you.

The Yellow Socialists got down on their knees to the capitalist politicians at Albany, but they were kicked out just the same. The Socialist councilmen were kicked out in Cleveland during the war. The only place the Socialists have been able to secure control of the capitalist government is where they have turned traitors to the workers and shot them down to protect the capitalists. They did this in Germany. The same kind of Socialists sold out the Italian workers in the recent struggle in that country.

Workers, there is only one way to secure better things for yourself. You must smash the capitalist governmental machine — the Capitalist Dictatorship — and set up a Workers' Dictatorship in its place.

That cannot be done by voting for candidates to run the capitalist governmental machine. You must build an organization to overthrow the capitalist government.

YOU MUST ORGANIZE IN THE SHOPS AND USE THE STRIKE AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT. YOU MUST ORGANIZE AND BE PREPARED, SO THAT WHEN THE REVOLU-

TIONARY CRISIS COMES, YOU CAN TURN A GENERAL STRIKE AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT INTO AN ARMED UPRISING TO OVERTHROW THE GOVERNMENT.

YOU MUST SET UP IN OPPOSITION TO THE CAPITALIST GOVERNMENT — A GOVERNMENT OF WORKERS' COUNCILS — THE SOVIETS. THE SOVIETS ARE THE WORKERS' GOVERNMENTAL MACHINE WHICH WILL DESTROY THE CAPITALIST GOVERNMENT AND THEN TAKE OVER THE INDUSTRIES FOR THE USE OF THE WORKERS.

The only value of voting is to send men to Congress and the legislatures to help break up the capitalist governmental machine by exposing it from the inside. The only party that proposes to do that is the United Communist Party. It has no candidates this year because the governmental persecution makes it impossible for it to make nominations. It therefore urges the workers to show their opposition to the capitalist government by refusing to vote for any candidates.

BOYCOTT THE ELECTION. REFUSE TO VOTE FOR THE CAPITALIST TOOLS WHO OPPRESS AND MURDER THE WORKERS. REFUSE TO VOTE FOR THE SOCIALISTS WHO MISLEAD THE WORKERS AND BETRAY THEM WHEN THEY GET INTO OFFICE.

BOYCOTT THE ELECTION!

DOWN WITH CAPITALIST GOVERNMENT!

HAIL TO THE WORKERS' COUNCILS AND THE DICTATORSHIP OF THE PROLETARIAT!

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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